

## Timeline of events

1670 to 1773 – Early British canals include a section of the River Welland in Lincolnshire; the Stroudwater Navigation in Gloucestershire, completed in 1779; and the Sankey Canal in Lancashire.

1776 – Completed in 1776, the Bridgewater Canal was the catalyst that started half a century of canal building. This was a time when Britain was bursting with trade, industry and commerce.

Late 1700s – Construction of the Grand Junction Canal began from Braunston on the Oxford Canal. James Brindley was in charge of the building of the so-called “Grand Cross”, two thousand miles of canals, which linked the four great rivers of England, the Severn, the Mersey, the Humber, and the Thames.

1947 – After years of neglect and the damage caused by the World War II, Britain’s canal and railway systems were nationalised by the government.

Today – Today most commercial traffic is restricted to just a few navigations. The rest of the system is awash with private pleasure boats, hire cruisers, hotel boats and day trip

Please share this Knowledge Organiser with family and friends and don't forget to bring in any work to school to show your teachers.

## Key vocabulary

**Canal:** a waterway or channel of water. They were built to allow boats to travel across land

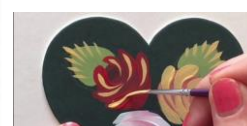
**Locks:** a lock is simply a chamber with gates at either end. By emptying or filling that chamber with water, boats can move up or down onto a new section of canal

**Pound:** canal pound, reach, or level, is the stretch of level water impounded between two canal locks

**Aqueduct:** a bridge to convey water over an obstacle, such as a ravine or valley



## Year 3 Knowledge Organiser – British Canals



## Key information

Canals were used to transport goods and people, in the same way our roads and railways are used now. The demand for goods grew during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Canals were seen as being an easy way of moving goods.

Most canals were built during the Victorian period and the Industrial Revolution.

